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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/837,505	04/18/2001	Hongyi Zhou	EGS:0130US	7923

7590

08/25/2005

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HONG KONG

EXAMINER
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CHOUDHURY, AZIZUL Q

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2145

DATE MAILED: 08/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/837,505

Applicant(s)

ZHOU, HONGYI

Examiner

Azizul Choudhury

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 11 May 2005.
- 2a) ☒ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-25 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-3 and 5-25 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 18 April 2001 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)                                   | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)             |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)<br>Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____  |

***Detailed Action***

This office action is in response to the correspondence received on May 11, 2005.

***Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102***

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

Claims 1-3 and 5-25 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Dickinson (US Pat No: 5,640,565).

1. With regards to claim 1, Dickinson teaches a network of systems of personal and business web cards, comprising a plurality of servers with which users may sign up to keep their contact information and through which the users may search others' contact information, each of said servers having at least a database and a search engine, and having at least one uniform search interface, wherein at least two of said servers are equipped with at least one interface having protocols established to connect with each other, and when a user places a search inquiry at a first server local to the user, the inquiry is forwarded to one or more other servers having the same protocols established with the first server so that any search inquiry is performed not only at the first server but also at said one or more other servers (Dickinson teaches a design for electronic business cards for use in a network

environment (column 2, lines 20-44, Dickinson). It allows for users to browse (search) for business cards (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson). This includes attaining a business card from another computer on the network and not local to the user. Since the computers are able to communicate with one another, it means that the design allows for the computers to follow (but is not limited to) the same protocols. In addition, the design allows for an agreed upon search method, hence equivalent to the claimed uniform search interface. Furthermore, each of the workstations are equivalent to servers and since they have storage means, they are also equivalent to databases. Plus, Dickinson's design allows for central stores which function as large databases for business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson)).

2. With regards to claim 2, Dickinson teaches a network of personal and business web cards, comprising a plurality of servers with which users may sign up to keep their contact information and through which the users may search others' contact information, each of said servers having at least a database and a search engine, and having at least one uniform search interface, wherein one of said servers functions as a master server that is equipped with at least one interface having protocols established to connect with said other servers as slave servers, and the master server is capable of transmitting any search inquiry to one or more designated slave servers (Dickinson teaches a design for electronic business cards for use in a network environment (column 2, lines 20-44, Dickinson). It allows for

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users to browse (search) for business cards (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson). This includes attaining a business card from another computer on the network and not local to the user. Since the computers are able to communicate with one another, it means that the design allows for the computers to follow (but is not limited to) the same protocols. In addition, the design allows for an agreed upon search method, hence equivalent to the claimed uniform search interface.

Furthermore, each of the workstations are equivalent to servers and since they have storage means, they are also equivalent to databases. Plus, Dickinson's design allows for central stores which function as large databases for business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson)).

3. With regards to claim 3, Dickinson teaches a network of systems, wherein said master server is capable of passing on any updates that a user placed at one of servers to designated servers (Dickinson's design allows for the use of one of many protocols, including TCP/IP for network communicating (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson). In addition, Dickinson's design uses a master host (column 9, lines 55-67, Dickinson). Furthermore, Dickinson's design allows for updated information to be transferred as claimed (column 7, line 48 – column 8, line 26, Dickinson)).
4. With regards to claims 5 and 20, Dickinson teaches a network of systems, wherein said servers communicate with each other through a reciprocal uniform search

interface with predetermined protocols between said servers (As stated before, Dickinson's design allows for protocols to be followed by the computers in the network. As in all networks, protocols must be followed for devices to communicate with one another. In Dickinson's design, one such protocol is the TCP/IP protocol (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson). Since protocols must be used, and that the business cards are of the same format throughout the network, it is inherent that the search interface must be uniform in Dickinson's design as claimed).

5. With regards to claims 6 and 21, Dickinson teaches a network of systems, wherein said predetermined protocols are of a uniform operative language (As stated earlier, Dickinson's design allows for the use of TCP/IP (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson). It is inherent that all the devices within the network communicate in a uniform protocol language as claimed for their communication to operate properly).
6. With regards to claims 7 and 22, Dickinson teaches a network of systems wherein each of said predetermined protocols is operative at least between two of said servers in consideration of the operative languages of said two servers (As stated earlier, Dickinson's design allows for the use of TCP/IP (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson) on devices, such as servers, within its network. It is inherent that all the devices within the network communicate in an agreed upon protocol as claimed so that the devices know how to communicate with one another).

7. With regards to claims 8 and 23, Dickinson teaches a network of systems, wherein said predetermined protocols of said servers are operated in Unicode that has correspondence with other Unicode of different languages (Unicode is simply a standard text involving 16 bits as opposed to the 8 bits used by ASCII. Dickinson's design requires the use of text and hence a standard must be used and no limitation is placed as to the type of text standard usable. Hence, Unicode is an acceptable text standard for Dickinson's design).
8. With regards to claims 9 and 24, Dickinson teaches a network of systems, wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search inquiry placed in a language into other operative languages and thus transmitting the search inquiry to other servers (Dickinson's design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to communicate (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57-67, Dickinson)).
9. With regards to claims 10 and 25, Dickinson teaches a network of systems, wherein said protocols of the interface are capable of transforming a search result into the language corresponding to the language of the search inquiry, and thus transmitting the result back to the server placing the search inquiry (Dickinson's design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to communicate with each other (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57-67, Dickinson)).

10. With regards to claim 11, Dickinson teaches a network of systems, wherein said master server has automatic synchronization function to transmit updates to all designated servers whenever an update occurs (Dickinson's design uses a master host (column 9, line 57, Dickinson) in a system that allows for synchronization upon request (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson)).
11. With regards to claim 12, Dickinson teaches a method of managing and controlling a network of systems of personal and business web cards, each of said systems including at least a web card server having at least a search engine and a database, said method comprising connecting a plurality of web card servers through the Internet; establishing at least a protocol between two of said servers to enable communication between them including transmission of search inquiries therebetween; installing said protocols, respectively, in at least two of said servers that communicate with each other; identifying said protocol between the servers to establish connection and communication therebetween; and transmitting any of said search inquiries and web card information between at least two of said connected servers so that any of said search inquiries is to performed not only at the server where the inquiry is placed, but also at least one of the other servers (Dickinson teaches a design for electronic business cards for use in a network environment (column 2, lines 20-44, Dickinson). It allows for users to browse (search) for business cards (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson). This includes



attaining a business card from another computer on the network and not local to the user. Since the computers are able to communicate with one another, it means that the design allows for the computers to follow (but is not limited to) the same protocols. In addition, the design allows for an agreed upon search method, hence equivalent to the claimed uniform search interface. Furthermore, each of the workstations are equivalent to servers and since they have storage means, they are also equivalent to databases. Plus, Dickinson's design allows for central stores which function as large databases for business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson)).

12. With regards to claim 13, Dickinson teaches a method, further comprising designating at least one of said web card servers as master server, and installing said protocols in said master server such that the master server is capable of communicating with all of said servers and transmitting any of said search inquiries and web card information among the servers, including any update of said web card information (Dickinson's design allows for master hosts (column 9, line 57, Dickinson)). Dickinson's design also allows for synchronization and updating of business cards (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson). In addition, the design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to communicate (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57-67, Dickinson). Furthermore, Dickinson's design allows for searches as claimed (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson)).

13. With regards to claim 14, Dickinson teaches a method, further comprising one master server for a particular region, and having all of designated master servers installed with pertinent protocols that enable communication between said master servers and transmission of web card information and search inquiries among said master servers (Dickinson's design provides support for multiple protocols so that different networks are able to communicate with each other (column 6, line 1, Dickinson) (column 8, lines 57-67, Dickinson)).
14. With regards to claim 15, Dickinson teaches a method wherein each of said master servers are capable of flashing an update that occurs within a corresponding system of personal information web card, and transmitting such an update to other master servers having designated users, that in turn transmits the update to the designated user so as to synchronize all personal information data files of all designated users (Dickinson's design allows for synchronization and updating of business cards (column 9, lines 24-32, Dickinson)).
15. With regards to claim 16, Dickinson teaches a method, wherein said protocol is operative in a uniform Unicode corresponding to Unicode of different languages (Unicode is simply a standard text involving 16 bits as opposed to the 8 bits used by ASCII. Dickinson's design requires the use of text and hence a standard must be

used and no limitation is placed as to the type of text standard usable. Hence, Unicode is an acceptable text standard for Dickinson's design).

16. With regards to claim 17, Dickinson teaches a network of systems, wherein the user can designate, in the inquiry, a particular set of said servers that have protocols established with the first servers (Dickinson's design allows users to access and edit cards as well as utilize cards within a collaboration (column 9, lines 2-4, Dickinson)).

17. With regards to claim 18, Dickinson teaches a network of systems of personal and business web cards, comprising a plurality of servers with which users may sign up to keep their contact information and through which the users may search others' contact information, each of said servers having at least a database and a search engine, and having at least one uniform search interface, wherein said servers are divided into groups such that each group comprises a master server and one or more slave servers, and within each group the master server is equipped with at least one interface having protocols established to connect with the slave servers within the same group, and is capable of transmitting a search inquiry to one or more designated slave servers, and wherein the master servers are equipped with at least one interface having protocols established to communicate with at least one of the other master servers such that a search inquiry can be transmitted among the master servers (Dickinson teaches a design for electronic business cards for use in a network environment (column 2, lines 20-44, Dickinson). It allows for users to

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browse (search) for business cards (column 7, line 49 – column 8, line 28, Dickinson). This includes attaining a business card from another computer on the network and not local to the user. Since the computers are able to communicate with one another, it means that the design allows for the computers to follow (but is not limited to) the same protocols. In addition, the design allows for an agreed upon search method, hence equivalent to the claimed uniform search interface. Furthermore, each of the workstations are equivalent to servers and since they have storage means, they are also equivalent to databases. Plus, Dickinson's design allows for central stores which function as large databases for business cards (column 5, lines 15-27, Dickinson)).

18. With regards to claim 19, Dickinson teaches a network of systems, wherein each of the master servers is capable of transmitting an update to the slave servers within the same group and other master servers (Dickinson's design allows for the use of one of many protocols, including TCP/IP for network communicating (column 5, line 56 – column 6, line 3, Dickinson). In addition, Dickinson's design uses a master host (column 9, lines 55-67, Dickinson). Furthermore, Dickinson's design allows for updated information to be transferred as claimed (column 7, line 48 – column 8, line 26, Dickinson)).

***Response to Remarks***

The amendment received May 11, 2005 has been carefully reviewed but is not deemed fully persuasive. Although amendments have been made and new claims have been added, no significant material has been included into the claimed design. For this reason, the examiner must continue to stand by the Dickinson prior art. Within the submitted remarks, the applicant's representative points out two issues of contention. The first issue is the belief that the claimed design performs an inquiry not only at the first local server but also at other servers, whereas the Dickinson design does not. The examiner disagrees and points to column 8, lines 7-27. Within that portion, it is cited that card information can be retrieved from other computers when it is not available at the local computer. The second issue of contention involves the master server of the claimed design. The applicant's representative explains how the master server is able to communicate with slave servers and how a number of master servers is able to exist. The examiner would like to first explain that the design features computers networked together. When two or more computers are communicating, the computer providing the service is automatically the server out of the group. Within Dickinson's design, computers hold master cards and replicated cards. When the design is dealing with a master card found in a computer not local to the user's computer, then that remote computer is the server (master server) at that instance. This is because the user's computer can be connected to another computer to gain a network connection with the computer serving as the server (master server) at that instance. Hence, all the computers within the design are able to serve as masters servers or slave servers since

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they are all capable of serving, it's just a matter of which card is needed that determines which computer is a master server and which are slave servers at any given instance.

### ***Conclusion***

**THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL.** Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire **THREE MONTHS** from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within **TWO MONTHS** of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the **THREE-MONTH** shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than **SIX MONTHS** from the mailing date of this final action.

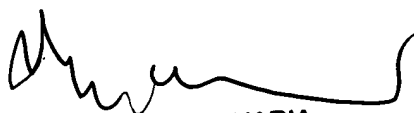
Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Azizul Choudhury whose telephone number is (571) 272-3909. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Valencia Martin-Wallace can be reached on (571) 272-6159. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

AC



**RUPAL DHARIA**  
SENIOR ADVISORY PATENT EXAMINER